

# P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

# COLLECTIVE GARDEN RULES

*Compliance with these rules is important for continued participation in the Collective.*

**Keep for your records-2013**

## 1) Collective Participants Responsibilities

- a) P-Patch collective participants are required to complete and record a minimum of seven hours monthly during the months of March-November. During the winter months of December, January, and February, participants are required to complete a minimum of three hours monthly.
  - i) P-Patch Community Gardening Program does not accept other forms of payment in lieu of hours.
  - ii) P-Patch Community Gardening Program may grant exceptions based on personal hardship and special circumstances. Arrangements should be made with P-Patch staff.
- a) **Collective participant agrees to abide to a group decision-making process, defined by the collective, for any major decisions and will not take individual action without working with the whole garden**
  - i) Who gets to vote: All active participants who have filled out an official application with the P-Patch Community Gardening Program have the opportunity to vote. Participants can vote by proxy (email, member who knows your view, postal mail).
  - ii) In extreme and time sensitive situations when participants must bypass the decision-making method and take action it is expected that actions will be made with the interest of the collective in mind.
- b) **Dissolving participation in the Collective**
  - i) Annual renewal: Participants of the collective must renew their status annually with the P-Patch Program.
  - ii) When the collective participant no longer wants to participate:
    - (1) Participant must notify and establish a timeline for disillusion with a P-Patch staff person.

## 2) Gardening and Maintenance

- b) **Organic methods only.** NO synthetic chemicals including: pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, weed killers, and fertilizers.
  - i) Organic fertilizers are allowed (compost, fish meal, composted manure, lime, etc).
- c) **Year-round gardening and maintenance**
  - i) Active gardening reflects the four seasons. (i.e. winterization, spring weeding and planting, fall cleanup, summer maintenance, harvesting, etc.)
  - ii) If vacations or other circumstances prevent the collective member from participating, they must communicate with other collective participants.
- d) **Pathways:** Please keep garden pathways safe, level, tidy, clear of weeds, and free of obstacles.
- e) **Do not expand the garden space** beyond its designated area. If the site has room for expansion, the collective must work with the P-Patch office to see if expansion is possible.
- f) **Secure the communal tool shed** and help maintain the shared tools.
- g) There is no garbage service (Pack it in; Pack it out)
- h) Do not pile debris in any garden space; it can create habitat for rodents, invite dumping and be unsafe.
- i) **Structures**
  - i) Fences/Trellises: For the safety of gardeners, visitors, and wildlife
    - (1) securely and safely built , without infringing upon any pathway
    - (2) must not pose potential harm to others
  - ii) Locks: Locks, or anything that gives the visual impression of a lock, are not allowed, other than the combination lock on the tool shed.
- j) Tires, railroad ties and treated lumber are not allowed
- k) **Plants**
  - i) Collective must process all plant material on site into usable organic matter
  - ii) Should refer to King County Noxious Weed restrictions and P-Patch Program Invasive Plant Guidelines.

- iii) Planting schedule will be quarterly in relation to season: four times yearly. As an active member you must attend meetings held to set planting schedule for the season. (If you cannot make the meeting you must make arrangements to get information.)
- l) Water responsibly (see P-Patch office for resources).
  - i) Water service is turned off near first frost date, remains off for the winter months and is turned back on in the spring.
  - ii) Water schedules will be decided upon by the collective in the dry season.
  - iii) Treat hoses carefully.
  - iv) Report leaks.
  - v) Sprinklers & drip systems can only be used when a collective member is present.

**m) Harvesting**

- i) Harvesting parameters will be decided upon by the collective in spring and could be done at group and individual times. (Honor system is strengthened through communication.)
- ii) If an individual notices one crop needs to be harvested due to readiness, individual should notify the collective by email and phone tree so all gardeners are aware of available crop.

**3) Considerate Community Gardening**

- a) P-Patches are public spaces. Respectfully welcome visitors to the garden.
- b) Smoking is prohibited in P-Patch gardens.
- c) Loud radios are prohibited.
- d) The sale of produce or flowers is only permitted through the P-Patch Market Garden Program or for a P-Patch fundraiser.
- e) The P-Patch garden cannot be used to conduct personal commerce.
- f) No dogs are allowed within planted spaces.
- g) Closely supervise your children; help them learn respect for gardening and boundaries.
  - i) Children using tools in the garden must be under direct and constant supervision of a parent or responsible adult. "Direct" means to be within sight and voice distance.
- h) Use common courtesy and resolve differences in a neighborly way.
  - i) For problems with fellow gardeners, stay polite and listen carefully. Usually a solution is within reach.
  - ii) Verbal or physical abuse will not be tolerated and are basis for immediate expulsion from the P-Patch Program.
  - iii) Refer to P-Patch grievance procedure if you are unable to resolve differences.



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